

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strike through~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 7-15 in accordance with the following:

1. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A cryptographic method comprising:  
receiving physical characteristic information representing a characteristic inherent to an individual;  
randomly determining a numeric key;  
generating a cryptographic key from said numeric key and a predetermined primary key;  
encrypting said physical characteristic information using said cryptographic key; and  
generating an auxiliary code for decrypting said cryptographic key, from said encrypted physical characteristic information and said numeric key.
2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A decryption method comprising:  
receiving encrypted physical characteristic information and an auxiliary code;  
restoring a numeric key from said received encrypted physical characteristic information and said auxiliary code;  
restoring cryptographic key from said numeric key and a predetermined primary key; and  
decrypting said encrypted physical characteristic information by using said cryptographic key and obtaining physical characteristic information.
3. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A cryptographic equipment, comprising:  
an inputting unit inputting physical characteristic information representing a characteristic inherent to an individual;  
a numeric key generating unit randomly determining numeric key;  
a key generating unit generating a cryptographic key from said numeric key and a predetermined primary key;  
an encrypting unit encrypting said physical characteristic information using said cryptographic key; and  
a code generating unit generating an auxiliary code from said encrypted physical characteristic information and said numeric key.

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A decryption equipment comprising:
  - a receiving unit receiving an encrypted physical characteristic information and an auxiliary code;
  - a numeric key restoring unit restoring a numeric key from said encrypted physical characteristic information and said auxiliary code;
  - a key generating unit generating a cryptographic key from said numeric key and a predetermined primary key; and
  - a decrypting unit decrypting said encrypted physical characteristic information by using said cryptographic key.
5. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A storage media storing a program to read and be executed by a computer, comprising:
  - an inputting procedure inputting physical characteristic information representing a characteristic inherent to an individual;
  - a numeric key generating procedure randomly determining a numeric key;
  - a key generating procedure generating a cryptographic key from said numeric key and a predetermined primary key;
  - an encrypting procedure encrypting said physical characteristic information using said cryptographic key; and
  - a code generating procedure generating an auxiliary code from said encrypted physical characteristic information and said numeric key.
6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A storage media storing a program to read and be executed by a computer, comprising:
  - a receiving procedure receiving a cryptogram including an encrypted physical characteristic information and an auxiliary code;
  - a numeric key restoring procedure restoring a numeric key from said encrypted physical characteristic information and said auxiliary code;
  - a key generating procedure generating a cryptographic key from said numeric key and a predetermined primary key; and
  - a decrypting procedure decrypting said encrypted physical characteristic information by using said cryptographic key.

7-15. (CANCELLED)

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16-26. (CANCELLED)